[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

actually 120 hours in the agreement. We are optimistic that it will take place. At the same time, I think we have to be realistic and I did talk about this in Sri Lanka. While the major exercise could be over in this time, there may be pockets and there may be aspects which may take a longer time to do and we have discussed this with President Jayewardene and both of us feel that as long as the main thrust is moving well and the implementation is going on properly, we should not fuss too much about whether it is one hour this side or one hour that side and whether one little pocket has been left out here where some problem may occur. There should be really a practical view of it. With these deadliness, we will try our very best. Now that there are Indian forces also in the peninsula, I believe it would be much easier to go through with this exercise of bringing about peace and harmony. I have no doubt that the agreement will go through well in the time frames that are mentioned in the agreement and that it will strengthen Indo-Sri Lankan friendship and strengthen our region tremendously. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING THE 3RD AUGUST, 1987

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Madam, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd August, 1987, will consist of:—

(1) Further consideration and passing of the Prevention of Corruption Bill, 1987.

(2) Consideration and passing of:—

(a) The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(b) The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(c) The Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1986.

(d) The Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(e) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(f) The Equal Remuneration (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(g) The Cine-Workers Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1987, as passed by Lok Sabha.

II. re. Drought situation in the country

II. STATEMENT BY MINISTER —

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Madam, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the behaviour of the South-West monsoon and its impact on the kharif crop production. I am aware that Hon'ble Members are very much concerned about the abnormal behaviour of South-West monsoon.

Monsoon set over South Kerala in time and gradually advanced northward satisfactorily till the middle of June. Thereafter, its progress was slow; and only on 23rd June, it advanced to Bihar. It was inactive for the next 12 days. Only by 8th July, it advanced to Himachal Pradesh hills and Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir even thouh it should have covered almost the entire country except West Rajasthan by 1st July. Rains did not arrive in West Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi till 26th

July, 1987. Delhi had the misfortune of breaking a 80 year old record on late arrival of monsoon.

The data available for the 35 Meteorological sub-divisions upto 22nd July, 1987 show that only 10 of the 35 sub-divisions had received normal or excess rainfall till the date. This is in contrast to 23 such sub-divisions in the corresponding period of 1986, 27 sub-divisions in 1985 and 26 sub-divisions in 1984. Thus, the progress of current monsoon has been unsatisfactory. Except Assam, Orissa and West Bengal and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka, the deficiency in rains in other parts of the country has been 20 per cent or more compared to "normal" rainfall. With nearly 70 per cent of our land cultivated under un-irrigated conditions, we are not strangers to the vagaries of monsoon. As you are aware, paddy, Jowar, Bajra, maize, pulses, groundnuts and Soyabean are our important kharif crops. Our farmers are indeed resourceful in making the best use of available moisture.

The Central Government had held a Conference in April, 1987 with the State Governments on the preparation of contingency plans to meet aberrant weather conditions in drought prone and flood prone areas. When the normal crop cannot be grown under such conditions, a substitute crop with a shorter duration is often grown by our farmers with the seeds supplied by the State Governments. In April 1987 itself, the Government of India had finalised plans with the State Governments for maintaining adequate buffer stocks of seeds to meet such contingencies.

The Ministry has requested the State Governments to give the highest priority to the provision of electricity and diesel to operate agricultural pumpsets so that the farmers can tap ground water in drought affected area which have such ground water. In fact, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana have reportedly cut down allocation of power to industries with a view to support irrigation by the farmers.

In this hour of difficulty, I am sure, the House will extend all cooperation to strengthen the hands of the farmer. While the State Governments have initiated apropriate action, a special Conference was held on 28th July by the Ministry in New Delhi to review the situation and to chart out further courses of action to make the best use of available moisture.

It was decided that the State Governments would apply their contingency plans for sowing alternative short duration crops in areas affected by delayed rains. Every possible step will be taken to husband the precious irrigation resources in the major and medium irrigation projects so that maximum possible water can be saved for the rabi season. During the month of August, joint plans of operation for Rabi season will be drawn up by the Centre and the States for:—

—extending irrigation to the maximum possible cropped area,

—securing shifts from more water-intensive crops to less water-intensive crops in order to maximise production, keeping in view the national priorities; and

—undertaking an emergency seed production plan in order to make good the loss in seed production during kharif 1987, so that the seed requirement of 1988-89 will be fully met.

Special attention will be paid to expand minor irrigation through tubewells and filter points.

I am aware that the Hon'ble Members are also worried about fodder for our animals. The State Governments have been already requested to take action on the basis of the

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

guidelines issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to save livestock from the present drought. These measures include procurement of fodder from Forest Departments, establishment of Fodder Banks, procurement of foodgrains unfit for human consumption, augmenting production of Urea molasses bricks to supplement animal feed etc.

Our past experience shows that in years of abnormal monsoon, scarcity of drinking water becomes a serious problem. The Department of Rural Development in the Ministry have activated an Action Plan for meeting the situation. This plan includes:—

—priority allocation of funds for critical areas,

—re-orientation of State plans to complete schemes in worst affected areas by December, 1987,

—reservation of water from irrigation reservoirs in drought affected areas for drinking,

—cutting down evaporation losses by spreading appropriate chemicals over such tanks,

—control of underground water withdrawal and other measures.

As stated earlier, the Ministry will work very closely with the State Governments to ensure that every possible step is taken to meet the abnormal monsoon and to render every possible assistance to the farmers and other sections of our population. We have tackled droughts and floods in the past and won the praise of our people. One of our biggest strengths is the large quantities of wheat and rice available in our foodstocks. With the cooperation of the Hon'ble Members and the State Governments, I am sure, the Government of India will meet the present contingency also successfully.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। हिन्दी में हमको स्टेटमेंट नहीं मिल रहा है। मांग रहे हैं बार बार कहते हैं लेकिन हिन्दी में नहीं है। यह सवाल यहां पर रोज ही उठता है। आखिर सरकार को इसको हिन्दी में भी तैयार करने में क्या कठिनाई है। यह होना चाहिए यह हिन्दी का बहुत बड़ा अपमान है।

उपसभापति : ट्रांसलेशन होता है, वह आपको मिलता है।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : यह हिन्दी में भी आना चाहिए इस बारे में आप व्यवस्था दें। यह मांग हम बराबर कर रहे हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. I am asking the Minister to circulate the statement in Hindi also.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I shall circulate it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, I heard the statement very carefully. It is very unfortunate that the rains have given a very difficult time not only to the Government, but also to the farmers who are directly concerned with growing of food.

Madam, seventy per cent of the farmers are small farmers in dry areas in the country, whatever the Minister may say in his statement like giving adequate cover, etc. But I want to know from the Government whether the Government has made any adequate preparation, as has been claimed by the Minister, for the supply of seeds wherever the crops have failed. For the regeneration of seeds, quality seeds have to be supplied because in such conditions the farmers' experience is that quality seeds are not available usually.

Secondly, whatever one may say about priority allocation of funds for critical areas, I have got my own doubts. I am saying this because

there was a question today—it was an Unstarred Question—and the information given is that for Maharashtra, the requirement for 1986-87 was about Rs. 500 crores whereas only a sum of Rs. 26 crores has been released. Dose the Minister really feel that with such a meagre allotment the State Government will come forward to meet the difficulties of the people? Prices are rising, oil prices, food prices, vegetable prices, etc. An all-round price rise is taking place. Unfortunately, God is not kind and I can appreciate that. But the Government will have to open its purse and help the State Governments. But there is no positive indication except the phrase, in what is called good English, "priority allocation of funds for critical areas". Where are the funds? I do not see the availability of funds. Even during the time of the last drought in Maharashtra, we did not receive the funds. About twenty or twenty-five per cent of the funds only is received. Are you going to change the norms at least this year because of the acute drought that is there now? You say that these are the norms and the teams go and come back. These things may be there. But, for heaven's sake, change the norms. Change the norms and see that the Central Government goes to the aid of the small farmers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Aladi Aruna.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam, the statement of the honourable Minister deals only with the drought which is prevailing due to the failure of the south-west monsoon. It has totally failed to mention the prevailing situation for the past three years due to the failure of the many monsoons in Tamil Nadu.

Madam, Tamil Nadu is mostly benefited by the north-east monsoon, but the catchment areas are benefited by the south-west monsoon as well. This year, Madam, we have not been benefited by the rains caused by the south-west monsoon. Therefore, almost all the reservoirs and tanks are empty. Due to the drought for the last three years, the State Government has repeatedly been asking for Central assistance. Last year, Madam, our Government sent a memorandum to the Central Government asking for assistance to help the poor people who are affected by the drought and we asked for assistance to the tune of Rs. 368.45 crores. Then, the Central team in April 1986 was sent by the Centre. It visited the various parts of the country. The high level committee on relief, after receiving the report from the Central team, has accepted the ceiling on expenditure to the level of Rs. 34.73 crores. But our request was to the tune of Rs. 368.45 crores. But the sanction was only Rs. 34.73 crores. It is one-tenth of our demand. I am not able to understand the logic. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the central team assessed the drought situation in Tamil Nadu properly or not. To know that will this Government submit their report and recommendations to this House? We would like to know that. Otherwise, when we are asking for more than Rs. 370 crores and you are giving Rs. 34 crores, it will create the impression in the public mind that the State Government is lavish or it is not being realistic. You cannot leave room for such doubts. That is why I would like the hon. Minister to place the report of the Central team on the Table of the House to know whether it has properly assessed the situation or not.

Madam, further, there has been failure of the monsoon for the last three years in Tamil Nadu. Because of the failure of the monsoon, our production has been seriously affected. Therefore, our Government has sent a proposal to the Centre asking them to supply three lakh

[Shri Aladi Aruna *alias* V. Arunachalam]

tonnes of boiled rice at the rate of Rs. 2660 per metric tonne.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Government is considering this proposal.

Another important thing is this. Our Government, it seems, is not given adequate fund to meet the drought situation. Our Government has proposed to give another Supplementary Memorandum to the tune of Rs. 150 crores. I hope this Government will take a favourable decision.

At the same time, I am to remind that due to the limited prohibition policy there is a financial loss of more than Rs. 250 crores per year. Now, for drought relief, to give employment and other things, to wipe out every tear from every eye, our State Government has spent more than Rs. 100 crores. But help from the Centre is very poor and meagre. So, will the Government come forward to consider our request?

These are my points for clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Chandra Vikal

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : उपसभापति महोदया मैं पहले आपकी व्यवस्था चाहूंगा इस बारे में कि प्राय: हमको हिन्दी के स्टेटमेंट नहीं मिलते हैं यह केवल आज का सवाल नहीं है। यह बहुत दुख के साथ मैं कह रहा हूं कि यह हिन्दी की उपेक्षा नहीं है यह संविधान की उपेक्षा मैं मानता हू। इस पर आप एक व्यवस्था दें और अब तक कोई स्टेटमेंट हिन्दी में न आ जाए आप किसी मंत्री को पढ़ने की इजाजत न दें।

दूसरा सूखा और मानसून की कमी पर ऋषि मंत्री जी ने अपना वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें उन्होंने स्वयं भी माना है कि 70-80 प्रतिशत असिंचित भूमि पहले से है और कई राज्यों जैसे तामिलनाडु, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, हरियाणा और पश्चिमी यू० पी० पूर्वी यू०पी० में थोड़ी वर्षा हुई है या वर्षा नहीं हुई है। दिल्ली का तो आप देख रहे हैं। यह भी ऋषि मंत्री जी मानते हैं कि 80 साल का रिकार्ड इस बार खत्म हो गया है। सूखे और मानसून के अभाव में राज्य सरकारों या स्वयं केन्द्रीय सरकार ने हमारे किसानों की सुविधा के लिए चाहे वह पशुधन की हानि हो चाहे फसल की हानि हुई हो चाहे उनके बच्चों पर इसका प्रभाव पड़ा हो इस बारे में क्या ठोस कदम उठाये हैं। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने स्वयं या राज्य सरकारों के द्वारा-जैसे हमारे कुलकर्णी जी पूछ रहे थे जो सहायता बीज की शक्ल में हो या अन्य की शक्ल में अथवा अन्य माननीय सदस्य भी पूछ रहे थे-क्या कदम उठाये हैं। मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि किसानों पर जो सरकारी बकाया है किसी तरह का ऋण उनमें किसी वसूली को रोकने के लिए या समाप्त करने के लिए क्या राज्य सरकारों को कोई आदेश दिये गये हैं और केन्द्रीय सरकार की सहायता इन दिनों किसानों को जिनके मवेशी पशु करीब करीब समाप्त हो गये हैं या जो ऐसी दयनीय दशा में हैं कि उनको देखा नहीं जा सकता किस रूप में दी जायेगी। भीषण भयंकर दुर्घटनाओं का जो ग्रस्त किसान है उसकी मदद के लिए केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारों से तुरंत क्या-क्या मदद की जा रही है एक तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं?

दूसरा भविष्य में तो मैं यह भी चाहूंगा कि खाली इस वक्तव्य से आज हमारे देश के किसानों की संतुष्टि होने वाली नहीं है। इस पर सदन में गम्भीर रूप से विचार चर्चा होनी चाहिए ताकि सभी पक्ष-विपक्ष के लोगों को हमारे देश की पूरी हालत पर जो आज सूखे की वजह से भयंकर स्थिति से किसान जूझ रहा है उनकी सारी कठिनाइयों पर गम्भीरता से चिंतन हो जाए इसके लिए भी उपसभापति जी समय निकालने की कृपा करें।

इतना ही मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभापति: आपने जो प्रश्न उठाया है इसके लिए हम सारी मिनिस्ट्रीज को लिखेंगे कि यदि कोई स्टेटमेंट हो तो उसे हिन्दी में भी सर्कुलेट करें।

श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग (गुजरात): उपसभापति महोदया कृषि मंत्री जी ने अभी जो बात सदन के सामने रखी है पूरा देश जानता है कि इस बार का जो सूखा है शायद पिछले एक शतक का यह गम्भीर सूखा है और इसके दूरगामी असर भी बहुत होना सम्भावी है।

मैं मंत्री जी से पहले तो यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जैसा कि उन्होंने यह बताया है--मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहूंगा कि सब से पहले तो मैं यह समझता हूं कि जहां पर वर्षा की कमी हुई है उन राज्यों में अब वहां पर कोई भी फसल होना, चाहे अब पिछले समय में कोई वर्षा हो भी, वहां कोई सम्भावनाएं नहीं हैं कि इस वर्ष की कोई दूसरी फसल हो सकती है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा, शायद उन्होंने कुछ अभ्यास भी किया है कि इसका जो नेचूरल फिनामिनन है, कि क्यों पिछले एक शतक का जो रेकार्ड तोड़ा है, यह मानसून क्यों सेट नहीं हो पाया है, इस बात को सदन के सामने लायें।

माननीय मैं आपके माध्यम से खास तौर से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जिन राज्यों में वर्षा बिलकुल नहीं हुई है, वहां पर पानी की इतनी भारी मात्रा में अकाल की परिस्थिति निर्माण हो गई कि शायद आने वाले दिनों में बड़े शहरों को तो छोड़िए, लेकिन छोटे-छोटे गांवों में भी पीने का पानी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाएगा। तो मैं खास तौर से यह क्लेरिफिकेशन चाहूंगा कि क्या मंत्री जी हमें यह बतायेंगे कि आने वाले दिनों में भी देश के उन भागों में मानसून होना सम्भावी है या नहीं, या वहां वर्षा सम्भावी है या नहीं, या किस मात्रा में यह सम्भावी हो पाएगा?

माननीय जिस प्रकार का सूखा, मंत्री जी ने, बताया है, इससे यह बात बिलकुल साबित हो जाती है कि देश में खास करके मूंगफली, कपास, गन्ना, मक्का और बाजरा जोकि लोगों की एक सम्पूर्ण आवश्यकता है और अतिआवश्यक बातें हैं, मैं समझता हूं कि इसके जो हमारे राष्ट्रीय लक्षांक हैं, इन लक्षांकों में भी एक भारी फेर आ सकता है। इस परिस्थिति से निपटने के लिए हम इस पर क्या कदम लेना चाहते हैं?

मेरा एक प्वाइंट और है--मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस सम्पूर्ण परिस्थिति की जानकारी है? जैसा कि उन्होंने घास वगैरह के लिए भी पशुओं के लिए कहा है, लेकिन जिन विस्तारों में वर्षा हुई ही नहीं है, जैसा कि मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा कि गुजरात का जो दक्षिण भाग है, उसमें घास इतनी अधिक मात्रा में होती है कि वह न सिर्फ गुजरात, बल्कि और राज्यों के लिए भी घास को दे सकता था, लेकिन आज वहां पर वर्षा नहीं है। घास वहां पर बिल्कुल नहीं है। अब गुजरात जो उस पर ध्यान रखता था, इस इलाके में वर्षा के अभाव में गम्भीर परिस्थिति का निर्माण हुआ है।

इसके लिए मैं जानकारी लेना चाहूंगा कि क्या मंत्री जी 10-15 दिन के अंदर अपनी एक ऐसी टीम हर राज्य में और खास करके ऐसे इलाकों में भेजना चाहते हैं कि वहां से तथ्यों से लैस होकर आए।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा है कि अब उन इलाकों में जहां पर पानी नहीं है और आने वाले दिनों में भी वर्षा नहीं होती, तो सिंचाई की बातें जो कही गई हैं, वहां डैम भले ही नहीं हैं, उन डैमों में पीने के पानी की जब बात आती है, तो कुछ भाग ऐसे हैं कि वहां पर एक बड़ी गम्भीर समस्या का सृजन हुआ है।

इस परिस्थिति से बचने के लिए अगर आज से कदम न लिये गये, तो मैं समझता हूं कि देश में पीने का पानी भी मिलना कुछ इलाकों के लिए बड़ी गम्भीर समस्या हो जाएगा।

इसलिए मैं मांग करता हूं कि 15 दिन के अंदर देश के तमाम इलाकों की परिस्थिति क्या है और उसको बचाने के

[श्री मीर्जा इर्शाद बेग]

लिए हमने क्या कदम लिये हैं, इसके बारे में सदन को भी जानकारी दें और मंत्रालय भी इस पर आगे कदम लें। मेरी आखिरी प्वाइंट यह है जैसा अभी विकल जी ने बताया है, मैं यह जानकारी लेना चाहूंगा कि जहां पर ऐसा गंभीर सूखे का निर्माण हो चुका है, आने वाले दिनों में अगर थोड़ी सी वर्षा हो तो भी वहां पर किसानों को कुछ खास फर्क पड़ने वाला नहीं है, तो ऐसे छोटे किसानों के जो बिजली के बिल हैं उसके बारे में सरकार कुछ करेगी ? पिछले चार वर्षों से सूखा चला आ रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में किसानों ने सहकारी संस्थाओं या बैंकों से जो ऋण लिए हैं उसके बारे में उन ऋणों को मुआफ करने के लिए कोई दूरगामी कदम उठाने के लिए मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या योजनाएं हैं ?

श्री शान्ति त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं सिर्फ एक ही बात पूछना चाहता हूं सूखे के बारे में और मैं यू०पी० की बात कर रहा हूं, उत्तर प्रदेश में मक्के की, चारे की, गन्ने की फसल सूख रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आप क्या राज्य सरकार से मिलकर जो किसानों की फसलों की क्षति हुई है उसमें कुछ मुआवजा या क्षतिपूर्ती किसी भी मात्रा में देने की कोशिश करेंगे, ऐसा मैं आपसे पूछता हूं ?

श्री भंवर लाल पवार (राजस्थान): माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के राज्यों को तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो अकाल की इस भीषण स्थिति में सबसे बदतर हालत राजस्थान की रही है और पिछले लगातार पांच वर्षों से राजस्थान में वर्षा की कमी है, अकाल है, यहां तक कि जो ग्राउंड वाटर है वह भी इतना नीचे चला गया है कि उसे पीने के लिए बाहर निकालना भी मुश्किल है और इस समय पीने के पानी की समस्या भी हल हो सके यह संभव नहीं दिख पा रहा है। राजस्थान का पशुधन जो लगातार 5 साल से कम होता जा रहा है इस साल तो इस भयानक स्थिति में वह बिल्कुल ही समाप्त होने की स्थिति में है। केन्द्र किस प्रकार से राजस्थान सरकार की सहायता करेगी ? राजस्थान सरकार ने जो इस संबंध में यहां केन्द्र को सहायता देने के लिए जो कहा है क्या पूरी क्षमता के साथ राज्य सरकार को वह सहायता मिलेगी, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं ? मंत्री महोदय ने अपनी स्टटमेंट में फौडर बैंक की बात कही है लेकिन पिछले दो साल से निवेदन कर रहा हूं, जैसे फूड कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया है उसी प्रकार क्या फौडर कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया बनाने की केन्द्र सरकार की कोई योजना है ? इसके बगैर ऐसी स्थिति में जहां बिल्कुल वर्षा नहीं हो रही है लाइव स्टाक को बचाना बड़ा ही मुश्किल रहेगा। यह कार्पोरेशन के बनने से इस समस्या का हल होना संभव है और साथ ही राजस्थान के किसानों के लिए बिजली के बिल को अभी स्टे करने के संबंध में या ऋणों की वसूली के संबंध में केन्द्र सरकार स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को कोई डायरेक्शन देगी ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, the report received by the Government from 35 meteorological sub-divisions of the country shows that only 10 have given the report that there is normal rain in those areas and there is deficiency in rainfall in the remaining 25 sub-divisions and, therefore, there is drought.

Madam, in the villages and rural areas we find that the lakes and ponds have been encroached, and the water storage in those areas has been completely ignored. Therefore, even if there is deficient rainfall those areas have been depicted as drought-hit areas. The Government should focus its attention on storing water in the rural areas so that irrigation will not be affected even if there is no rainfall in an area for a particular period. There should be co-ordination between the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agricul-

1 P.M.

ture to have the plan of having water storage because now we find that in Assam there is flood but other States in the north-eastern region are suffering because of drought. Therefore, the Ministry should take note of this particular aspect.

Secondly, Madam, there is drinking water problem in villages as well as in towns and for this purpose mainly the ground water potential is being relied upon. We have seen that people are getting drinking water in important cities like Madras and other places just once in three days or four days. Then, in the rural areas people have to walk three to four kilometres, including housewives, to get a pitcher of water for drinking. The Hon. Minister has given certain priorities and made certain suggestions how to meet the drinking water shortage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether priority for taking water for drinking from irrigation reservoirs in drought affected areas has been made. Then alone the drinking water problem will be solved.

Then, Madam, the Tanjore belt and other parts of Pondicherry State are very badly affected since there is no water in the Mettur reservoir. The crops in our State are completely dry and dying and we are not in a position to get proper yield out of it. Therefore, we have submitted a memorandum to the Central Government. I suggest that the norms that have been prescribed by the Government, they should be changed keeping in view the present drought situation so that a liberal policy may be adopted by the Government.

श्री दरबारा सिंह (पंजाब) : मैडम, मैं सिर्फ सवाल यह करना चाहता हूं कि यहां जो सब दोस्त बोले हैं, उन्होंने ठीक बातें कहीं और गवर्नमेंट के नोटिस में जो तकलीफें हैं वे लाए हैं। ड्राउट है, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं हैं। लेकिन मैं यह कहता हूं कि ड्राउट के लिए या यहां बहुत पानी आया यानी फ्लड्स के लिए यह नहीं कि गवर्नमेंट उस वक्त सोचे, गवर्नमेंट को उससे पहले सोचना चाहिए कि कैसे इसको रोका जा सकता है, इमरजेन्सी क्या है ? देश में अभी कुछ भी ऐसा बंदोबस्त नहीं किया गया है जिसमें कि जहां घास ज्यादा हो सकती है उसको प्रीजर्व किया जाय उस वक्त के लिए, जबकि ड्राउट आता है चाहे वह देश के किसी भी हिस्से में आता है क्योंकि यह देश एक है। तो इसके लिए हर जगह पर ऐसा इंतजाम होना चाहिए था, जो नहीं किया गया।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इनका कोर्डिनेशन इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट से कितना है, वह भी काबिले-गौर है। अभी तक ऐसे नसले पड़े हैं, जैसे पानी के झगड़े बहुत बढ़े हैं., खतम नहीं हुए। पानी, जो रनिंग वाटर है, उसका इंतजाम इस ढंग से ही किया गया कि जहां पानी की जरूरत है वहां पानी मिले। सब प्रदेश अपने पानी को अपनी जेब में डाले बैठे हैं, आगे बढ़ने नहीं देते कि जहां ड्राउट है वहां पानी मिल पाये। पानी आज नीचे सतह पर चला गया है और लोगों को मिल नहीं पाता है। देश भर में जहां ड्राउट है, वहां पहले पानी अगर 40 फीट पर था, वह 60 फीट नीचे चला गया है। हम मानते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट को एक तकलीफ है और हम सबको मिलकर उसे देखना चहिए। लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि आज यह वक्त निकल पाये तो बहुत अच्छी बात होगी क्योंकि बहुत मुश्किल है, पीने का पानी तो है नहीं आपको फसल के लिए कहां से मिलेगा। यहां पहले भी डिस्कशन होती रही है इस पर। मुझे अफसोस है इस बात का कि जब तक हम रोटी, कपड़ा, मकान, तालीम और दवा लोगों को नहीं देते तब तक काम नहीं चलेगा। अब जैसे कहते रहे हैं कि तेल का है, तेल बाहर से मंगवाए जाओ, लोगों को बांटे जाओ और जो यहां पैदा होता है उसकी कीमत बढ़ाए जाओ, गवर्नमेंट को इसको कंट्रोल करना होगा हर चीज के लिये, चाहे खाने की बात हो, आटा, दाल, मिर्च-मसाला और तेल लोगों को चाहिए, अगर आप इसके लिए भी प्रबंध नहीं कर पाते तो बहुत मुश्किल

(श्री दरबारा सिंह)

होगी आइंदा के लिए । मैं यह कहता हूं कि यहां भी पानी का सवाल आया है, वहां पानी का इंतजाम करना चाहिए । इसके लिए दो मिनिस्ट्रीज को बैठकर फैसला करना चाहिए कि हमें पानी, जो रनिंग वाटर है, उसकी यूटिलिटि मेक्सिमम क्या हो सकती है उसे देखें और यह पानी के झगड़े जो हैं, इन्हें बैठकर खतम करवाएं । यह एग्रीकल्चर का ड्राउट तो आता रहेगा, कहीं ज्यादा फ्लड्स आते रहेंगे ।

अब यह फ्लड्स यहां आते हैं, वहां फ्लड्स पर पैसा काफी खर्च करते हैं लेकिन फ्लड्स का बंदोबस्त नहीं करते । लोगों को फ्लड्स आने के बाद रिलीफ देते हैं । मेरा कहना है कि यह रिलीफ देने के बजाय फ्लड्स चैक कैसे किया जा सकता है, वह रुपया वहां खर्च किया जाये, एडवांस प्लानिंग आप कीजिए, तब ही यह बात आगे चलेगी । देश में आज जो स्थिति है, ऐसी हालत में गुजर रहा है, यह बहुत भयानक है । इसके लिए इमरजेन्सी के तौर पर सब बंदोबस्त किया जाना चाहिए और आइंदा के लिए चाहे फोडर के लिए हो, ज्यादा फ्लड्स यहां आते हैं, उसको रोकने के लिए बंदोबस्त किया जाय । साथ ही पानी जो बह रहा है, जाया जा रहा है, स्टेट में जो पानी के झगड़े हैं, इसको देखकर खत्म कर आगे चलना चाहिए, तभी आपका बंदोबस्त हो सकेगा नहीं तो इमरजेन्सी प्लेन बनाते रहेंगे, पैसा खर्च होता रहेगा और लोगों की तकलीफें बढ़ती रहेंगी, जो प्रोडक्शन के टारगेट हैं वह पूरे नहीं हो पाएंगे । यह मेरे आपको सजेशन हैं, अगर इस पर अमल कर सकें तो यह आपके लिए अच्छा होगा ।

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Madam, I am in entire agreement with the last speaker. It is absolutely correct that unless we tap our water resources, unless we preserve them, it is not possible to meet the situation. Unfortunately, in this country, there is a drain on our forests. Trees are cut indiscriminately. That has created problems to some extent. There are other phenomena which have also worked for it. One hon. Member wanted to know the main reason for the bad monsoon this year. It is said by the Meteorological Department and experts that there is a phenomenon called ELNINO which occurs off Peru Coast in the Pacific Ocean, and this phenomenon vanishes between 1st and 15th of April every year but unfortunately this year it existed till the end of July, and now only it is reducing. This is due to water currents, particularly warm water currents in the sea, and it is because of that, that a bad monsoon, paticularly South-West bad monsoon is there. I have received a report from the United States Agency for International Development. In this report also, not only they have considered this EL-NINO phenomenon as one of the reasons but according to them, the heavy snow cover on the Himalayan mountains and Tibet Plateu are also responsible for this, because the snow did not melt in the absence of sufficient heat. And this is also one of the reasons for the bad monsoon this year.

I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Members that the States are not helped properly, as they say. But our own resources are also limited and the Government of India has to work within the limited resources. Norms are also prescribed not by the Government, but by the Finance Commission and we are governed by the norms prescribed by the Eighth Finance Commission. Accordingly, we are helping the States whenever a memorandum is submitted by the State Government for help in case of drought or flood or cyclone or other natural calamities.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Can you not change the norms?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have changed them once and now the Ninth Finance Commission is there and it is for them to do it. This time the monsoon is very bad, and out of 35 Meteorological centres, only ten Meteorological sub-centres had good rains, as against 23 in 1986, 27 in 1985 and 26 in 1984. So, the monsoon is

very bad; there is no doubt about it, and this has created a number of problems for our farmers for the Government and for our people in the county and we have to meet the situation. Madam, it is this South-West monsoon which is responsible for the kharif crop. And 58 per cent of the total foodgrains crop is from the kharif crops and also 55 per cent of the total oilseeds is from this kharif crop. This is from the South-West Monsoon. The main kharif crops which have been affected because of the failure of the South-West Monsoon are: rice, coarse grains, pulses, oil-seeds, soya bean; jute, cotton etc. As I said in my statement, we have made elaborate arrangements to meet the situation. We have drawn up contingency plans for all the States. We are in constant touch with the State Governments. We have been holding meetings with the State Governments and we are guiding them.

Another point which has been raised is in regard to supply of seeds. The hon. Member is not here. In regard to supply of seeds, we have made elaborate arrangements with the National Seeds Corporation and the Seeds Corporations in th States. We have taken stock of the situation. We have informed all the State Governments, the Seeds Corporations in the different States, to stock seeds and in addition to this, whatever quantity is available with the National Seeds Corporation is distributed to the State Seeds Corporations so that they can supply it to the farmers.

In regard to fodder we know, the situation is very bad, particularly, in Gujarat and Rajasthan. We have requested the State Governments like West Bengal and Orissa, where fodder is available, to help the other States. Punjab has a large quantity of wheat which is unfit for human consumption because it was spoiled due to unseasonal rain. We have requested the State Government to supply this spoiled wheat to the other parts of the country. They have been very kind. They have said that stock is available with them and that the other States can approach them and negotiate with them in regard to the price so that they can supply this spoiled wheat for cattle-feed.

Then, some hon. Members said that their State Governments had sent supplementary memoranda. We have looked into thee memoranda, we have examined them and tried to help the State Governments. Madam, earlier, we had placed at the disposal of the State Governments Rs. 100.55 crores as margin money. This was increased to Rs. 240.75 crores. Therefore, whenever any contingency arises, the States can meet the situation by utilising this amount of Rs. 240.75 crores. Apart from this, we are also helping the State Governments when they submit memoranda. During the Sixth Plan period, in regard to drought, we have helped the States to the tune of Rs. 1,373.36 crores. This is not a small amount. Primarily, it is the duty of the State Governments. The Government of India will supplement their efforts. Even in regard to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments, this huge amount has been spent. If you see the figures for the last three years, in 1985-86, it was Rs. 467.81 crores; in 1986-87, it was Rs. 609.34 crores and in 1987-88, Rs. 226.43 crores. This is the extent of help given to the State Governments.

Not only this. We have also supplied foodgrains to States which are severely affected when they make a request so that they can supply the same to the workers at subsidised rates. We have given 55,000 tonnes of wheat to Maharashtra. To Madhya Pradesh, we have given 1 lakh and 18,750 tonnes. Rajasthan has been given five lakh tonnes of wheat. We have not allocated such a large quantity to any other State except Rajasthan. It has received the maximum quantity, namely, five lakh tonnes of wheat. Gujarat has been given two lakh tonnes. and Orissa one lakh tonnes. This is the quantum of assistance we have given to the State Governments.

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

Madam, the Government of India is ready to help the State Governments wherever there is need, whenever they make a request and wherever it is necessary. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

III. Re. machinery for ensuring safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): Madam, the Constitution provides under Article 338 for appointing a Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided under the Constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Government of India in 1978 had set up a Commission to do practically the same functions with the intention of replacing the Special Officer by such a Commission by amending the Constitution. However, the efforts of the Government at that time to amend the Constitution in this respect did not succeed. As a result the Commission and the Commissioner have been functioning with almost similar functions.

We have examine this matter carefully. Government does not propose to make any changes in the Constitution in this regard. Instead we would like to make the Constitutional machinery of Special Officer envisaged under Article 338 more effective and hence we shall strengthen his office and also provide for a disciplinary mechanism to take action against defaulting personnel.

We have need also of a body at the national level to aid and advise the Government in regard to the basic socio-economic issues involved in the process of uplift and welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Changing situations demand that all the aspects should be carefully studied and suitable changes in policy and programme and in administrative structure and agencies effected to meet new requirements. It is hence proposed to rename the Commission for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and redefine its functions and to expand it to include experts in relevant disciplines.

A detailed statement in this respect is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

IV. Re. accidents to trains Hyderabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express near Manchiryal station of South Central Railway on 9-7-1987 and Barharwa-Rampurhat Passenger on 27-7-1987 on the Eastern Railway.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Madam, I deeply regret to apprise the House of two unfortunate accidents, one involving Train No. 21 Hyderabad-Hazrat Nidamuddin Express on 9-7-87 on the South Central Railway, and the other to Train No. 316 Barharwa-Rampur Hat Passenger on 27-7-87 on the Eastern Railway.

Train No. 21 Express left Manchiryal station on the Kazipet-Balharshah Section at 4.27 hours. It met with an accident at about 4.35 hours between Manchiryal and Mandamari stations after traversing a distance of about 3 Kms. It was marooned due to a flash flood caused by the bursting of an irrigation tank, following unprecedented heavy rains. Before it could proceed further, the surging flood washed away a portion of the railway embankment under the train, causing derailment of 14 out of the 18 coaches of the train. Of the derailed coaches, 10 were swept away by the force of water. Two of these coaches, fourth and fifth from the train engine, were swept to a distance of about 40m from the track.

About 20 minutes earlier, a goods train running towards Machiryal on the adjacent track had passed over the same stretch and nothing unusal had been reported by the driver of the goods train.

As per records, this section had no previous history of any damage by floods. The irrigation tank in question, located about 3 Km. on the upstream side of the railway track, was being maintained by the State Government.

As a result of the accident, 55 persons lost their lives and 2 sustained injuries, out of whom two had minor injuries. The casualties were mostly from the 4th and 5th coaches from the engine. These were Second Class Sleepers through co-